(b) No, Sir. The share value of MUL was valued by three independent valuers of repute and the average of these three values, which worked out to Rs. 3280, was the price per share paid by SMC to subscribe to the rights issue. This contrasts with the price of Rs. 269 per share paid by SMC in the 1992 transaction mentioned in reply to part (a) above.

(c) Suitable provision has been made in the Revised Joint Venture Agreement entered into by Government with SMC in respect of employee retrenchment.

Construction of houses under VAMBAY in Hyderabad

*320. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses to be constructed in Hyderabad under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) during the current year;

(b) whether Government have extended financial aid to the beneficiaries of VAMBAY; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) 4000 dwelling units in Hyderabad and Secundarabad are proposed to be constructed under VAMBAY by 31st May, 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government have released a Cental subsidy of Rs.12 crores to Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation (APSHC) for construction of dwelling units at the rate of Rs. 30,000/- per dwelling unit for the beneficiaries.

(c) the Tentative target date for completion of the project is 31.05.2003.

Schemes affected by terrorism in NER

†1916. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the projects being undertaken in North-Eastern States have become victim of terrorism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Power has warned about the threat of security of the personnel engaged in these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that incidents of gruesome killings of a number of employees/officers of Indian Oil Corporation have taken place recently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The progress of some projects has been delayed partly due to insurgency in some of the States of North Eastern Region. For example, the progress of Dhansiri Hydro Electric Power Project (20 MW) being executed by Assam State Electricity Board and Loktak Downstream Hydro Electric Power Project (90 MW) being executed by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) have partly suffered due to law and order problems and adverse security environment. And so have some of the road projects.

(c) and (d) The Central Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Power that are implementing power projects in the North Eastern Region, have been apprising the Government form time to time of the disturbed security environment, including specific incidents of threats, extortion demands, kidnappings, attacks, etc. on employees by unlawful elements. Ministry of power has been taking these matters up with the concerned State Governments and also with the Ministry of Home Affairs for reinforcing security arrangements at the project site.

(e) and (f) According to information provided by Indian Oil Corporation, no incident of any gruesome killing has taken place in their projects in North-East Region. However, two officials of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) along with five contractual workers were killed recently near Diphu in Assam.